

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A handle apparatus of a tailgate having an upper panel and a lower panel for a vehicle, comprising:

a bracket mounting part mounted at an upper portion of said lower panel that  
5 forms a gap with upper panel;

a handle bracket mounted at said bracket mounting part that bridges said gap, with a lower end of said handle bracket being positioned above a lower end of said upper panel;

a handle rotatably hinged via a hinge connected to said handle bracket with a  
10 bottom end of said handle being positioned above the lower end of said upper panel; and

a link mechanism for transmitting a rotating motion of said hinge to a tailgate latch.

2. The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said bracket mounting  
15 part protrudes vertically upwards from said upper portion of said lower panel, and said handle bracket is fixedly abutted to said bracket mounting part with a nut part.

3. The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said link mechanism comprises:

a rotating plate rotatably fixed to an inner tailgate panel;

20 a handle side rod connecting with said rotating plate and said handle; and

a latch side rod connecting with said rotating plate and said tailgate latch.

4. The apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein said rotating plate is L-shaped and is centrally and rotatably coupled to said inner tailgate panel, and an upper

branch of said rotating plate is rotatably coupled with said handle side rod while a lower branch of said rotating plate is rotatably coupled to said latch side rod.

5        5.        The apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said nut part of said handle bracket extends to a horizontal part towards said upper panel, and said horizontal part extends to a panel connector to allow the lower end of said upper panel to be connected.

6.        The apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein a corner area between said horizontal part and said panel connector is provided with a support part for supporting said handle via said hinge and a through hole.

10        7.        The apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said panel connector is mounted with a lower side flange and a hitching jaw, so that a distal end formed by a lower side part of said upper panel bent toward an inner side of said upper panel and is fixedly inserted between said lower side flange and said hitching jaw.